



NIAGARA CATHOLIC

LARRY HUIBERS
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

CAMILLO CIPRIANO
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

CONTACT

ISSUED BY:
JENNIFER PELLEGRINI
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Office: 905-735-0240 ext. 297
Mobile: 905-651-3818
Email: jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com

ABOUT US

NIAGARA CATHOLIC SERVES MORE
THAN 20,000 STUDENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES THROUGHOUT NIAGARA.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 @NiagaraCatholicDSB
 @niagaracatholic
 @NiagaraCatholicDSB

MEDIA RELEASE

December 17, 2020

Students, Staff Advised to Prepare for the Possibility of Online Learning in January

As we watched cases increase in the past week in Niagara and across Ontario, Niagara Catholic anticipated that the Ministry of Education might make an announcement during the Christmas break about having students switch to virtual learning when classes resume in January.

When schools closed in March for the March Break, students left behind many items thinking they would be back in early April. Of course that didn't happen, and families had to wait until June to retrieve the items that were left behind in March.

While we do not normally speculate, if 2020 has taught us anything, it is to expect the unexpected. We wanted our families whose children attend school in-person to be as prepared for a switch to virtual learning on January 4 as they are for sending their children back to school. That includes bringing home important items they may need, and having supports in place just in case the government does make an announcement over the Christmas break.

On Tuesday, we advised principals to give their families advance notice that there could be a shift to virtual in January. We felt it was important that families and school staff be prepared for that possibility. On Wednesday, the Ministry asked school boards to move forward with this messaging.

We have no idea what will happen during the two weeks we are away. So much of it will depend on case counts and hospitalization numbers. Our primary concern is that everyone leaves for the break as prepared as possible for what might happen.

We continue to remind our families to please follow the guidance of Niagara Region Public Health and to comply with the regulations in place for whatever level we are in, to wash their hands, wear masks and practice physical distancing to ensure everyone stays safe this Christmas.